

**REPORT OF THE
REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT
PRAIRIE AND NORTHERN
Dan Grunert**

This report will cover the period from September 9, 2016 to March 7, 2017.

Since my last report on September 9, 2016 I have organized the first ever UEW Prairie Northern Regional Conference in Yellowknife, NWT, attended Regional Labour Management meetings as well as Regional Occupational Health and Safety meetings, attended 5 of the 8 local AGM's and pushed for Environmental Enforcement Officers to be included in the terminable allowance proposed by the TC bargaining group. The majority of my day to day work in this time period has been fielding questions and concerns of the Locals, as well as gathering up information on Phoenix and passing it up to National Office.

The UEW Prairie Northern Regional Conference was held in Yellowknife NWT for the very first time from September 28 to 30, 2016. Overall, it was a great success. I would like to thank Brother Jeff Irwin for stepping in for Brother Todd Panas in covering the topics that he was slated to talk about. Brother Irwin did a great job in this role. I also want to thank Brother Luc Paquette for providing some great training on grievances. I hear across the AGM circuit that this was a very valuable training. I also want to thank Northern Regional Executive Vice President Jack Bourassa for attending our conference as he highlighted many of the issues that are affecting the north. This led to a good discussion on issues that affect the north.

I have attended several Regional Labour Management meetings as well as Occupational Health and Safety meetings with the departments. One achievement I can note is management has extensively promoted the JLP mental health awareness workshop and several of the offices will be having the two-day workshop. I am proud to report 6 of the 8 locals had a JLP mental health awareness workshop.

I have attended 5 of the 8 local AGM at this time. I was unable to attend local 30703 due to a work conflict, and I would like to thank Brothers Panas and Irwin for being able to attend this Local meeting. As for the meetings I have attended, there has been no change to the local executives, therefore congratulations to those who were re-elected or on their 2 or 3 year terms.

In the summer of 2016, it was brought to my attention that in the TC collective bargaining proposals, one of the demands was for a terminable allowance for Fishery Officers and Enforcement Officer (Wildlife) which did not include Environmental Enforcement Officers.

After much lobbying the TC bargaining team, negotiator and the PSAC National President Robyn Benson, we were finally heard as the tentative agreement that the TC bargaining team signed with Treasury Board included Environmental Enforcement Officers in the terminable allowance. Since then, I have been able to liaison with PSAC Prairie Regional offices and was able to get each Local an additional ratification vote on the work site to hopefully get a higher voter turnout from the Prairie locals. As I pen this report, I have been informed by Sister Catherine McNalty – President of Local 30071, that the onsite ratification vote had a great turnout with few people needing to vote at alternate locations and dates.

The Phoenix pay system has definitely affected our region. I am being provided many accounts of people's pay being affected by this system, and the lack of information it provides. With that said, from what I have seen, DFO and ECCC have been doing a reasonable job assisting their employees with pay issues. From my personal account, as an affected member by Phoenix, I have seen Brother Daryl Hoelke and the Pay Liaison office working together collaboratively to figure out the pay issues. I personally appreciate it and I know others have too. Keep up the good work.

Overall, 2016 ended well with a merger between UEW and NHU, and as a new larger and stronger Component, we move into 2017 with vigor and excitement for what lies ahead.